AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A proton-conducting polymer membrane wherein 1 to 40 parts by weight of ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor having sulfoalkyl or sulfoaryl groups ~~inserted~~ in metal phosphate layers of the ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor wherein the metal is a group IV metal is dispersed in 100 parts by weight of proton-conducting polymer having proton-exchanging groups in side chain.

2. (Original) The proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 1, wherein said proton-exchanging group is selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid, phosphoric acid, phosphonic acid and derivatives thereof.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 1, wherein said ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor is a compound selected from the group consisting of ~~compounds represented by the following Chemical Formula 1~~:

$M(O_3PCH_3)_2$, $M(O_3PCH_2OH)_2 \cdot H_2O$, $M(O_3PCH_2COOH)_2$,

$M(O_3P(CH_2)_4COOH)_2$, $M(O_3P(CH_2)_5COOH)_2$, $M(O_3PCH_2SO_3H)_2$,

$M(O_3P(CH_2)_2SO_3H)_2$, $M(O_3POH)(O_3PC_2H_4COOH) \cdot nH_2O$,

$M(O_3POH)_x(O_3PC_2H_4COOH)_y \cdot nH_2O$, $M(O_3POH)_x(O_3PC_2H_4COOH)_y$,

$M(O_3PC_2H_5)_x(O_3PC_6H_4SO_3H)_y \cdot nH_2O$, $M(O_3CH_2OH)_x(O_3PC_6H_4SO_3H)_y \cdot nH_2O$ ~~Chemical Formula 1~~

wherein M is a group IV element selected from Zr, Ti, Ce, Th and Sn; x+y=2; and n is a real number in the range from 0 to 20.

6. (Original) The proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 1, wherein said proton-conducting polymer membrane has a thickness ranging from 30 to 125 μm.

7. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A method of preparing a proton-conducting polymer membrane according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:

1) dissolving a proton-conducting polymer having proton-exchanging groups in side chain in an organic solvent to prepare a 5 to 10 wt % proton-conducting polymer solution;

2) dispersing a ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor in an organic solvent to prepare a 5 to 10 wt % ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor solution;

3) mixing said proton-conducting polymer solution and said ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor solution, so that 100 parts by weight of proton-conducting polymer is mixed with 1 to 40 parts by weight of ~~ionomer/~~solid proton conductor; and

4) preparing a polymer membrane using said mixture solution.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of preparing a proton-conducting polymer membrane of claim 7, wherein said organic solvent is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone (NMP), dimethylformamide (DMF), dimethylacetamide (DMA), tetrahydrofuran (THF), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), acetone, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), tetramethylurea, trimethylphosphate, butyrolactone, isophorone, carbitol acetate, methylisobutylketone, n-butyl acetate, cyclohexanone, diacetone alcohol, diisobutyl ketone, ethyl acetoacetate, glycol ether, propylene carbonate, ethylene carbonate, dimethylcarbonate and diethyl carbonate.

9. (Previously presented) A membrane-electrode assembly using the proton-conducting polymer membrane of any one of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6.

10. (Original) A fuel cell containing the membrane-electrode assembly of claim 9.

11. (New) A proton-conducting polymer membrane wherein 1 to 40 parts by weight of solid proton conductor having sulfoalkyl or sulfoaryl groups in crystalline metal phosphate layers of the solid proton conductor wherein the metal is a group IV metal is dispersed in 100 parts by weight of proton-conducting polymer having proton-exchanging groups in side chain.